

The City routinely performs vehicle speed studies on our major roads. These studies are used to assist in speed enforcement and to evaluate the validity of posted speed limits. On low volume residential streets, the easy method described below can be used by citizens to find out just how fast people are actually driving.

Items needed: stop watch, measuring tape, street chalk or wide tape, note pad and pencil

Procedure:

1. Determine where you want to measure vehicle speed. This location should be away from STOP signs or curves that would tend to slow vehicles.
2. Measure and mark a distance of 100 feet on the edge of the road. As always, be safe when in the road. Marks must be temporary (tape or chalk works well).
3. Find a comfortable spot off the road near the middle of the marked area where you can see both end marks.
4. Use the stop watch to measure how long it takes a vehicle to travel the 100 foot distance.
5. Refer to the following table to convert the travel time to vehicle speed:

Time (seconds)	Speed (mph)
5	13.6
4.5	15.2
4	17
3.5	19.5
3	22.7

2.5	27.3
2	34.1
1.5	45.5
1	68.2

6. Record the results and repeat steps 4 and 5 until a reasonable sample is obtained (usually at least 25 vehicles in each direction). Larger numbers of vehicles sampled gives greater accuracy to the speed study results.

7. If it appears based on your study, that a large percentage of the vehicles are traveling well over the posted speed limit, there may be a speeding problem. You may contact the Police Department at 328-5737 or Traffic Engineering at 328-4645 to provide us with the results of your study.

### **What Can I do about Speeders on my Street?**

- Speeding can be a serious problem and can become a concern for both motorists and residents. Listed are a few tips when dealing with areas which seem to have speeding problems.
- Use the method above to see if motorists are actually speeding or if there is a perception of speeding.
- Keep children and pets away from the street.
- Contact the Council Bluffs Traffic Supervisor at 328-4645.
- Contact the Traffic Enforcement from the Council Bluffs Police Department at 328-4948.

**Listed are some different programs that can be done with speeders by the Police Department.**

- Radar Enforcement and ticketing by Traffic Unit.
- Radar Enforcement by trained residents.
- Portable Speed Trailer.
- Where's the Bear?

**Things that can be done by the Traffic Engineering Department.**

- Speed Limit Studies.
- Improved Speed Limit Signage.

- Change Parking along Roadway.
- Change Pavement Markings.

#### **Other things that can be done to reduce speeds in residential areas.**

- Roadway configuration changes known as "traffic calming".
- Road closures.
- Diverting traffic onto other roadways.
- Gated communities or neighborhoods.
- Minimizing mixed commercial and residential development.

#### **Things that can be done by residents to reduce speeds.**

- Be an example. Drive slowly in your and other neighborhoods and school zones.
- Start a neighborhood watch group.
- Know and talk with your neighbors about the situation.
- Get specific information when calling into city departments. Know "when", "who", "where", and "how many".

#### **Things that are NOT effective speed control devices.**

- Stop Signs. Stop signs only slow traffic for a short distance, usually 150 feet on each side of the stop sign. Typically speeds will increase on the through street which is not being stopped. People usually try to make up lost time from the unnecessary stop sign by excessive acceleration creating extra noise and pollution.
- [Speed Bumps](#). See page on speed bumps.
- Reduce Speed Limits. Speed Limits must be matched to the street and roadway environment. Ridiculously low speed limit signs will not be complied with and will not be enforced. Studies have proven that a properly determined speed limits will provide uniform and reasonable speeds by the motorist. However, there will always be a certain percentage of motorists who refuse to abide by a posted speed, no matter what it is.
- Being a bad example. If you expect others to drive at a reasonable rate in your neighborhood, do the same for them.